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URBAN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR 1940.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1940.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of  
Ashington.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1940, bearing upon the state of health and the sanitary conditions of the Urban District.

It is my first completed year as whole-time Medical Officer of Health for the district.

As stated in the report for the previous twelve months, the record continues to be as succinct as possible, in conformity with the specific intentions of the Ministry of Health, and is throughout self explanatory.

The following changes in staff took place, and it should be placed on record that the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Miss Catherine B. McGregor, M.B., D.P.H. commenced duty towards the end of May, 1940, and that a Supervisory Officer, expressly appointed by the Joint Committee for the Medical Officer of Health in concert with the scheme making authority (Northumberland County Council) was attached to the Department of the Medical Officer of Health with the avowed intention of easing the burden occasioned by the administration of the Casualty Services for the five districts, and which, up to that time, had been solely shouldered by the Medical Officer of Health himself.

With these necessary additions to staff, it was at once apparent that new accommodation became an urgent requirement, and so it came about that the premises at 146, Station Road, Ashington, were acquired on lease as the offices of the Medical Officer of Health for the five constituent Authorities, and it is from this control centre that the direction of the five distinct Sanitary Departments of the constituent districts is accomplished.

The year under review was marked by the prevalence of measles, at that time part of a nation wide epidemic affecting for the most part pre-school children and those attending the infant departments of elementary schools.

The district also suffered somewhat by its proximity to the Urban District of Newbiggin in which occurred a troublesome outbreak of paratyphoid B. fever. The number of Ashington cases was not great and within is described a history of the outbreak and course of the prevalence in the adjoining district, which, I trust, you will find to be of interest.

I have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by the members of the Council and for the assistance of the staffs in the Sanitary and Child Welfare Departments, and

for the very valuable and untiring support accorded me by the personnel of the hospital during the period in which the accommodation was taxed to the utmost by the admission of the sufferers of the above mentioned paratyphoid B. epidemic.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ANGUS.

August, 1942.

Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1940

## Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.	)	
Medical Officer M. & C.W.	)	James Angus,
Authority.....	)	M.B., CH.B., B.HY., D.P.H.
Medical Officer Infectious	)	
Diseases Hospital.....	)	
Assistant Medical Officer		Catherine B. McGregor,
of Health		M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
		Appointed April, 1940.
Dental Officer.....		G.E. Wilson, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.M.,
		L.D.S., part-time.
Ophthalmic Surgeon.....		Alex MacRae, M.D., D.O.M.S. part-time.
Obstetrical Consultants...	(	E. Farquhar Murray, M.D., F.R.C.S.(Eng)
	(	H. Evers, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S.(Eng).
	(	F.E. Stabler, M.D., F.R.C.S.(Eng).
Sanitary )		
Housing )	Inspector	G.W. Tate, F.S.I.A., M.R., San.I.
Meat )		
Sanitary )	Inspector	E.W. Strachan, M.S.I.A., A.R., San. I.
Meat )	(additional)	
Health and Child	(	Miss I. Taylor, S.C.M.,
Protection Visitors	(	Miss N.P. McKenna, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Matron, Infectious Diseases		Miss E.A. Chisholm, S.R.N.
Hospital		
Staff Nurse		Miss E. Ormston.
Offices of the M.O.H.		146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone		Ashington 287.
Offices of the Sanitary		Council Chambers, Ashington.
Inspector		
Telephone		Ashington 210
Hospital for Infectious		North Seaton Station, Ashington.
Diseases		
Telephone		Ashington 20

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URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.  
FOR 1940.

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SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, in acres - 6,057.

Registrar General's estimate of  
Resident population mid 1940 ... 27,790

X

Area comparability factor ..... 1.21

Rateable value- £109,434

One penny rate produces - £422.326

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940)- as previous years.

Vital Statistics.

Births:-

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate .....	429	214	215
Illegitimate.....	10	5	5

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 15.79.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate .....	12	4	8
Illegitimate.....	1	0	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 28.45.

Deaths:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	311	172	139

Death Rate per 1,000 of the average population - 11.19.  
Death Rate multiplied by areal comparability factor - 13.54

Deaths from puerperal causes ( headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No.29 Puerperal Sepsis.....	2	4.38
No.30 Other maternal causes.	2	4.38
Total.....	4	8.76

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births .....65.31

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....64.52

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.100.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....37

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..... 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..... 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..... 1

## BIRTHS

The illegitimate births registered and allocated to the district are 10 - five males and five females.

The following table gives the monthly births, sex and distribution.

### Ashington Urban District, Sex & Distribution, 1940.

	Ashington.			Hirst			District.			Illegitimate			
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.
January	8	5	13	19	14	33	27	19	46	-	-	-	-
February	9	6	15	9	14	23	18	20	38	-	-	-	-
March	2	3	5	7	12	19	9	15	24	-	-	-	-
April	6	3	9	9	8	17	15	11	26	-	-	-	-
May	5	6	11	16	12	28	21	18	39	-	1	-	-
June	4	2	6	4	16	20	8	18	26	1	-	1	-
July	4	4	8	10	16	26	14	20	34	1	1	-	-
August	6	6	12	8	9	17	14	15	29	-	-	-	-
September	3	2	5	8	12	20	11	14	25	-	-	-	-
October	7	6	13	13	6	19	20	12	32	-	-	-	-
November	7	2	9	11	7	18	18	9	27	-	-	1	2
December	3	2	5	8	13	21	11	15	26	-	-	-	-
Totals	64	47	111	122	139	261	186	186	372	2	2	2	2

### NETT MONTHLY DEATHS AND BIRTHS.

	Ashington Ward		Hirst Ward		Total	Total Births Registered.
	All Ages.	Under 1 yr.	All Ages.	Under 1 yr.		
January	11	3	21	1	36	46
February	13	2	14	5	34	38
March	10	-	18	-	28	24
April	11	-	8	2	21	26
May	9	-	14	1	24	40
June	9	-	9	-	18	28
July	7	4	9	1	21	36
August	11	-	8	-	19	29
September	5	-	10	-	15	25

Nett Monthly Deaths and Births cont.

October	4	-	10	-	14	32
November	6	-	9	2	17	30
December	8	-	7	-	15	26
Totals	104	9	137	12	262	380

The Registrar General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1940.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Typhoid & Paratyphoid fevers	1	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-
3.	Scarlet fever	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of resp: system	2	12
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	2
8.	Syphilitic diseases	2	-
9.	Influenza	1	3
10.	Measles	-	-
11.	Acute polio-myel: & polio-enceph:	-	-
12.	Acute inf: enceph:	1	1
13.	Cancer of B: cav: & Oesoph: (M) uterus(F)	2	4
14.	Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	5	1
15.	Cancer of breast	-	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	14	5
17.	Diabetes	-	-
18.	Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	21	12
19.	Heart diseases	46	39
20.	Other diseases of circ: system	6	1
21.	Bronchitis	8	13
22.	Pneumonia	6	2
23.	Other resp: diseases	-	2
24.	Ulcer: of stomach or duodenum	6	1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	1
26.	Appendicitis	-	1
27.	Other digve: disease	3	6
28.	Nephritis	7	7
29.	Puer: and post-abortion: sepsis	-	2
30.	Other maternal causes	-	2
31.	Prem: birth	5	4
32.	Con: mal: birth inj: infant: dis:	8	3
33.	Suicide	3	1
34.	Road traffic accidents	-	-
35.	Other violent causes	10	3
36.	All other causes	9	9
All causes ..		172	139



		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of infants	(Legitimate .....	19	9
under 1 year	(Illegitimate .....	1	-
	Totals .....	<u>20</u>	<u>9</u>
Live Births.	(Legitimate .....	214	215
	(Illegitimate .....	5	5
	Totals .....	<u>219</u>	<u>220</u>
Still Births.	(Legitimate .....	4	8
	(Illegitimate .....	1	-
	Totals .....	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>

### INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1940.

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year is 29 this year compared with 27 for 1939. The Infantile Mortality Rate is therefore 65.31 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rate for 1939 was 57.08 per 1,000 children born.

NEONATAL DEATHS:- Included in above figures - number 18, and of those 15 died within the first week of life.

Comparative mortality table during the past years is as follows:-

Year.	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Number of Infant deaths from										
(a) Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 yrs	3	6	12	3	5	4	3	4	1	1
(b) Infantile deaths under 1 year.	52	48	51	43	57	41	37	33	27	29
-----										
Causes of death.	Und 1 wk	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 1 mth	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total under 1 yr.
Diarrhoea and enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis meningeal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Menigitis non- tubercular	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Prematurity	8	1	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
Atrophy, deb: marasmus	3	1	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	5

Con: malform- ations	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Convulsions	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Other causes	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	4
Totals	15	3	-	-	18	7	2	1	1	29

Of the 29 Infant Deaths, 15 died within one week of birth from prematurity and congenital defects.

### SECTION B.

#### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The bacteriological examination of specimens of pathological material in aid of diagnosis continues to be carried out by the County Council, at the County Laboratory, Newburn.

The following table shows to what extent this arrangement is utilised and the information may be conveniently set out at this point, though it can be related to Section F.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

##### DURING THE YEAR 1940.

<u>Specimens sent in by.</u>	<u>Specimen.</u>	<u>Neg.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>
Medical Practitioners.	Tubercle Sputa	64	6
C.C.T.O.	Tubercle Sputa	28	8
M.O.H.	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	36	4
Medical Practitioners.	do	37	7
M.O.H.	Virulence test for B.diphtheriae	1	3
M.O.H.	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococcus	17	5
Medical Practitioners.	do	16	8
M.O.H.	Blood for Enteric Fever	90	1
Medical Practitioners	do	6	10
M.O.H.	Faeces for Enteric Fever	12	-
Medical Practitioners.	do	11	2

M.O.H.	Urine for Enteric Fever	8	-
Medical Practitioners.	Miscellaneous	5	1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR THE HOSPITAL FOR  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Sent in by M.O.H. as Physician in charge of the Hospital.

	<u>Neg.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Blood for Enteric Fever.	-	7	7
Faeces for Enteric Fever.	290	111	401
Urine for Enteric Fever.	342	41	383
Swabs for C. diphtheriae.	187	140	327
" " C. diph. (Morph.)	-	2	2
Swabs for Haemolytic Strept.	127	84	211
Virulence Test for B. diphtheriae	1	2	3

The large number of bacteriological reports relating to the Hospital practice was brought about by the admission to the Hospital of the large number of sufferers from paratyphoid B. fever which occurred during the year in Ashington, Bedlingtonshire and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

No change from previous years.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Nursing facilities described in previous reports have been continued during 1940.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

All as previously indicated in preceeding Annual Reports.

HOSPITALS.

The Ashington Hospital, a voluntary one provides the same accommodation as before - 26 males, 14 females and 3 children.

Outside the Ashington district further hospital services, including those for specified types of treatment can be obtained at the many hospitals in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne, about 20 miles away.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics were held in the M.C.W. building at South View.

Sessions - 97 from 2 - 4 p.m. Monday and Thursday afternoons throughout the year.

The following is a record of the attendances during the twelvemonth.

Total attendances during the year:-

Children under 1 year .....6,005  
Children between 1 and 5 years .....1,079

Total number of children who attended at the Centre for the first time during the year and who at the date of their first attendance were -

(a) under 1 year of age ..... 405  
(b) between the ages of 1 and 5 years ..... 213

Total number of children who attended at the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were -

(a) under 1 year of age ..... 324  
(b) over 1 year of age ..... 506

Special attention continues to be directed to observing the dental and oral state of the mothers attending with their babies. Those in whom the oro-dental state is found to be unsatisfactory are referred to the Dental Officer for treatment.

### Milk Foods etc.

During the year milk foods and other specialities were supplied in accordance with the undermentioned data.

	Food Sold at Cost Price.	Food Sold at Half Price.	Food Supplied free to necess- itous cases.
Ostermilk, No. 1.	1034 lbs.	12 lbs.	120 lbs.
Ostermilk, No. 2.	4404 lbs.	51 lbs.	417 lbs.
Cow and Gate	4407 lbs.	28 lbs.	673 lbs.
Nutrix	661 lbs.	49 lbs.	403 lbs.
Virol	1539 tins	-	6 tins.
Virolax	113 tins	-	-
Codliver oil Emulsion	275 btls.	-	152 btls.
Marmite	727 cartons	-	-
Maltoline	107 tins	-	-
Trufood	1146 tins	12 tins	33 tins.
Follow-on-Trufood	51 tins	-	64 tins.



In so far as the supply of food free of cost is concerned, all such was supplied to necessitous cases coming within the scale of income approved by the Ministry of Health, and amounted in value to £147. 2. 3.

#### Clinics for the Pre-School Child (1½ - 5 years).

These sessions, commenced on November 10th, 1936, were held every second Tuesday afternoon from 2 - 4 p.m.

Number of Sessions held .....23  
Number of children examined ..... 280

Defects in pre-school children during 1940. Numbers of children examined in whom were found:-

Caries of Teeth ....	124	Impetigo .....	2
Tonsils enlarged ...	23	Bronchitis .....	7
Squints .....	11		

Those children in whom dental caries is disclosed at these examinations are referred to the Dental Officer.

#### MATERNITY SERVICES IN ASHINGTON.

##### Ante-Natal Clinic.

Two afternoon sessions are held per month throughout the year.

Number of sessions held - 23

Total number of new cases under above auspices .... 33  
Total number of re-visits under above auspices..... 41

Where the circumstances were adjudged necessary, food free of cost was given to expectant mothers.

References to Specialists. - There were referred to obstetric specialists in Newcastle during the year from the Ante-Natal Clinics under the scheme, 23 cases for opinion and report at a cost of £24. 3. 0.

Home Helps - Home Helps have been available during the year and their services have been engaged on 27 occasions.

Maternity Outfits may be had on requisition and payment of a small fee.

Maternal Morbidity (cases of puerperal pyrexia) - Facilities contained in Ministry of Health Memo 156/M. C. W. 1930 continued to be available to practitioners.

Maternity Hospital - The agreement still obtains with the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle to admit from this Area emergency

maternity cases approved by the Medical Officer of Health, and during 1940 there were 17 such. The types of these cases are described as follows:- Puerperal Sepsis 1; Thyrotoxicosis 1; Eclampsia 3; Placenta retained 2; Haematemesis 1; Haemorrhage A.P. 1; Prolonged Labour 3; Caesarean Section 1; Instrumental Delivery 1; Normal Deliveries 3.

CHILDLIFE PROTECTION - Childlife Protection Visitors are the two Health Visitors. At the end of the year 1939 there were three children on the register, one of whom returned to its parents in 1940.

### SUMMARY OF CHILD WELFARE ACTIVITIES, etc.

Birth Notifications received from doctors and parents .....	58
Birth notifications received from midwives .....	364
Total births registered .....	422
Number of infants supervised - First Visits .....	435
" " " " - Total Visits .....	2,466
Number of re-visits to children from 1 - 5 years .....	3,713
First Visits to Babies wholly breast fed .....	371
" " " " " hand-fed .....	22
" " " " partly hand-fed .....	9
First visits to expectant mothers .....	199
Total visits to expectant mothers .....	292

### SECTION C.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### WATER.

Periodic water sampling is carried out, and the following table shows the results of the Bacteriological examinations carried out during 1940.

Source.	Date.	Colonies of organisms on Agar at 37°C after 48 hrs. per Ml.	Colonies of organisms on Agar at 22°C after 72 hrs. per Ml.	Coli Aerogenes Test organisms per 100ml.
Town Supply.	24- 4-40	Nil	Nil	3
do.	24- 4-40	Nil	Nil	8
do.	17- 5-40	Nil	43	1
do.	1- 7-40	26	43	5
do.	1- 7-40	9	18	3
do.	23-10-40	12	49	3
do.	23-10-40	5	52	1
Newmoor Pit Supply.	1- 5-40	21	63	Nil
Newmoor, Lamp Cabin Pit supply.	1- 5-40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Woodhorn Cottages, Pit supply.	1- 5-40	Nil	Nil	Nil

There remain five standpipes in back streets, supplying 17 houses with water.



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extension in sewerage of any importance took place during the year under review.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was undertaken to enhance the purity of the Bothal Burn or the River Wansbeck, the latter of which is mostly a tidal water for the greater part of its course through the Ashington district.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Twenty-two ashpits were abolished and the conversion to the water carriage system introduced. Of these 21 were at Woodburn Colliery and included the Aged Miners' Homes; the remaining conversion took place at Coneygarth Cottage, where the drainage was taken to a septic tank.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The whole of the public cleansing is undertaken by the cleansing staff and its transport, the operations being conducted from the Department of the Surveyor to the Council.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Due in no small measure to the shortage of materials for repairs to property, a slowing up in the carrying out of works required under notices was found. The materials allotted to the various builders as their monthly quota was found to be insufficient to deal exhaustively with requirements, so that only absolute essentials could be dealt with.

The following table summarises the Notices served:-

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done.	Verbal or written Notice.	Complied with.
To clear choked drain or Water-closets.	92	92
To provide ashbins.	1	1
To repair eaves, gutters, and downspouts.	26	7
To repair sink or waste pipes.	2	2
Defective or leaky roofs, damp walls, etc.	16	14
Defective fireplaces.	5	4
Defective outbuildings.	4	4
Defective manhole covers.	1	1
Defective water closets.	2	2
Defective sash cords.	9	9
Defective wallplaster.	4	3
Offensive accumulations.	4	4
Defective ceilings.	1	1
Defective foodstores.	4	4
	172	178

## SHOPS AND OFFICES, including Cinemas and Public Buildings.

The ventilation, sanitary accommodation and cleanliness of places of public entertainment received attention during the year, and no complaint was received affecting any of these places.

## CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the area.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT, and Atmospheric Pollution.

Eleven householders "who did permit the chimney of their dwelling house to be accidentally on fire" were summonsed, on reports from the Police, by the Sanitary Inspector. Notwithstanding warnings by the Bench against this all too common habit and threats of heavier penalties, the nuisance still continues. The penalties imposed on the guilty, although hardly exceeding much more than the fee charged by a chimney sweep, do not appear to act as a deterrent to the perpetrators of these anti-social acts.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Institute swimming baths are open to the public on becoming members or on payment of the requisite fees for non-members.

Appended are the results of the bacterioscopic examination of specimens of water taken from the baths:-

Source.	Date.	Colonies of organisms on Agar at 37°C after 48 hrs. per ml.	Colonies of organisms on Agar at 22°C after 72 hrs. per ml.	Coli Aerogenes Test Organisms per 100ml
Institute Swimming Baths.	24-4-40	9940	29400	25
do	8-5-40	30000	0.1c.c. plate uncountable.	Nil
do	29-5-40	610	170	Nil
do	12-6-40	Plates unreadable owing to spreading growth		Nil
do	14-8-40	5	11	Nil
do	21-8-40	1190	690	5
do	18-9-40	1040	620	1
do	23-10-40	1600	approx 0.1c.c. plate uncountable	8

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1. (a) No. of council houses found to be infested by bed bugs - 27.  
No. disinfested - 27.
- (b) No. of other houses found to be infested by bed bugs - 12,  
includes one caravan.  
No. disinfested 12.



2. Insecticides Solution B. and Zaldecide were used.

Work of disinfection is carried out by trained employees of the Local Authority.

After primary and secondary disinfections re-inspection is carried out for recurrences and occupiers are encouraged to report any reappearance to the Department.

No. of council houses found to be infested by beetles - 19.  
No. disinfested - 19.

No. of other houses found to be infested by beetles - 8.  
No. disinfested - 8.

### SCHOOLS.

There are seven schools, all of which have an abundant water supply, hand basins for washing, and throughout the water carriage system for the removal of sewage.

### RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Complaints regarding the infestation of premises by Rats or Mice were not numerous during the year. Advice was given in all cases where infestation was found, and in addition to the laying of Poison Baits, the "Smoking" of Runs was adopted. No difficulty was experienced in securing the co-operation of the occupiers of premises in Pest Extermination.

### Rag and Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

The premises to which these Acts apply have been visited and no contravention of the Acts was found.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT - Summary of.  
Year ending December 31st, 1940.

	No. of Inspec- tions during Year.	No. of Defects or Contra- ventions or Bye- laws.	No. out- standing from previous year.	No. re- medied after letter or inter- view.	No. of inform- al Notices served.	Defects re- med- ied there- after.	In progress or being dealt with.
<b>HOUSING.</b>							
Structural Defects.	461	282	45	-	282	301	25
Defective Food-store	23	4	8	-	4	4	-
Dampness	35	6	2	-	5	5	3
Overcrowding	15	-	6	-	-	-	-
Nuisances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>WATER.</b>							
Insufficient )	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory )	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>DRAINAGE.</b>							
Insufficient	183	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defective	183	70	-	68	2	2	-
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES.</b>							
Insufficient	34	4	12	-	16	12	4
Defective	56	22	-	21	1	1	-
Shops, Food-stores, etc.	112	3	-	3	-	-	-
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	83	5	-	5	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses	646	Government Abattoir.		-	-	-	-
Rents, Vans, etc.	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Workshops and Workplaces	107	15	-	15	-	-	-
Keeping Animals	5	1	-	1	-	-	-
Ashpits improperly used	7	2	-	-	2	2	-
Offensive accumulations	15	3	-	-	3	3	-
<b>Totals</b>	1802	417	73	113	315	330	32

## SECTION D.

### Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

A. Total ... ..	Nil
B. As part of the Municipal Housing Scheme ... ..	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	282
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	461
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. ...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.. ... ..	Nil

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. ... ..	260
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

For the sub-sections A, B, C, and D, "Nil" returns have been supplied.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. - Overcrowding:-

Here again the returns for sections (a), (b), (c) and (d) are "Nil" ones.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) AMENDMENT ACT 1938, extending the provisions of the Acts of 1926 and 1931.

The Third House Farmhouse was converted during the year from a single dwelling into two Farm workers Cottages. The maximum grant was applied for by the Owners and approval to the work was received from the Ministry of Health and the reconstruction duly carried out.



Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Ninety-seven samples of milk were taken and submitted to the County Laboratory at Newburn for bacteriological and biological examination for cleanliness and contamination with the M.tuberculosis respectively. Twenty-seven of these were pasteurised milk.

Three samples of milk were disclosed as a result of the biological test to be contaminated with M. tuberculosis and subsequent reports showed that one cow slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order 1938 was found to be suffering from tuberculosis. In the remaining cases the final result was inconclusive, that is the actual animal responsible for the contamination was not secured for various reasons, such as removal from the herd to a grading station, emergency slaughter or death, during the interval of investigation by the Veterinary Officers, or during that interval elapsing between the date of taking the first sample and the receipt of the positive report.

The milk producers within the Urban District are regularly visited and the byres and dairies found generally to be in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

The number of Cowsheds is 9, and approximately 180 cows are kept.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

In early 1940 the Ministry of Food decreed that a central slaughtering centre and a depot for the distribution and allocation of meat be established in the already existing abattoir belonging to the Ashington Industrial Co-operative Society (Butchering Dept.) back Wansbeck Terrace, Ashington.

These premises since January 14th have served as a centre for this purpose for the Urban Districts of Ashington and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

This dispensed with the private slaughtering houses or killing shops situated in various localities throughout both the Urban Districts.

The existing premises of the Society were adapted for this major role by certain additions to equipment and certain minor structural alterations.

The innovation is an important one and its suitability and efficacy can be vouched for by the officials detailed to carry out meat inspections. It is hoped that there will be no post-war reversion to the former conditions.



The number of animals slaughtered during the year, excluding cows which numbered 127 was:-

Bovine 1,592; Calves 255; Sheep and Lambs 8,446; Swine 1,152.

The amount of meat condemned and destroyed, all of which was voluntarily surrendered, is set out in the accompanying table, with the reason for such action.

Meat, Organs, etc. Condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed.

For Tuberculosis.

Bovine Lungs.	78	Swine Heads.	49	Beef weighing 51 stones.
Head and Tongue.	51	Plucks.	30	
Livers.	14	Whole Carcases	6	
Whole Carcases.	6			

Other Defined Diseases.

Bovine Head & Tongue	Actinomycosis	6
Bovine Lungs	Melanosis	6
Bovine Lungs	Abscesses	14
Bovine Lungs	Flukes	14
Bovine Lungs	Pleurisy	6
Bovine Lungs	Actinomycosis	2
Bovine Livers	Cirrhosis	240
Bovine Livers	Abscesses	18
Bovine Livers	Echinococcus Cysts.	2
Bovine Livers	Cavernous Agnioma	2
Bovine Livers	Bacterial Necrosis	4
Bovine Liver	Toxaemia	1
Bovine Udders (Cow)	Mastitis	3
Bovine Carcases	Emaciation	2
Bovine Carcases	Johnes Disease	1
Bovine Tripe and Gut	Johnes Disease	7
Calves	Immaturity	14
Beef	Bruising	14 stone.
Swine Carcase	Asphyxiation	2
Swine Carcase	Pneumonia	2
Swine Head	Abscesses	2
Swine Livers	White Spot	2
Swine Livers	Cirrhosis	24
Pork	Mastitis	23 lbs.
Pork	Bruised	16 lbs.
Swine Pluck	Pleurisy	6
Sheep Pluck	Parasites	41
Sheep Carcases	Pneumonia Gangrenous	1
Sheep Carcases	Asphyxiation	6
Sheep Carcases	Oedema	1
Sheep Carcases	Emaciation	5
Sheep Carcases	Ill bled	1
Sheep Carcases	Pyrexia	1

Frozen Mutton (sheep carcase)	Decomposition	1
Mutton	Bruising	2 stone.

### OTHER FOODS.

At the behest of the Local Food Office, quantities of other foods were inspected. Wherever it was found possible, recommendation was made for the sale of rationed commodities without coupon.

The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed:-

Bacon 4 cwts. - qrs. 14 lbs.      Ham 2 qrs.  
 White Fish Fillets 3 cwts. 3 qrs.      Butter 1 qr. 25 lbs.  
 52 tins of Cherries      3 tins of Peas., and 18½ lbs of tinned Ham, were also destroyed.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned 1940.

	Cattle exclu. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	) 1592	127	255	8446	1152
Number inspected					
All diseases except Tuberculosis-					
Whole carcase condemned	-	3	14	17	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	240	52	-	45	38
Percentage of the No. affected with disease other than T.B.	15.075	43.307	5.49	.734	3.64
Tuberculosis only -					
Whole carcase condemned	1	5	1	-	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	113	30	-	-	79
Percentage of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.16	27.559	.392	-	7.378

### SHELL-FISH.

There are no shell-fish layings within the Urban District.

### SECTION F.

#### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital has accommodation for about 36 patients.

The staff includes matron, two staff nurses, 2 probationers, three maids, and porter-grounds man.

One motor ambulance is provided for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

There were 12 patients in hospital on 1st January 1940. The number admitted during the year was 148 (scarlet fever 14; diphtheria 36; typhoid fever 6; paratyphoid fever 79; measles 3; whooping cough 1; scabies 8; for observation 1). 151 patients were discharged during the year, leaving 9 in hospital on December 31st 1940. The hospital was occupied all the year and the expenditure amounted to £2,528.18. 8., of which £1,411.12.11. was recovered from other Authorities.

It should be realised that the facilities of the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Ashington are extended to neighbouring Authorities and during the year under review much use was made of these.

The following premises were disinfected or disinfested:

68 houses and 2 wards at Ashington Hospital for Infectious Disease,

30 houses and the Ashington abattoir for beetles,

11 houses, one van in Cricket Field, one bed-settee and two chairs for vermin.

The steam disinfecter at the Isolation Hospital has been in constant use during the year.

Table Showing Analysis of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases Under Age Groups.

Disease.	Und 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	2	1	4	1	9	6	3	2	-	-	-	28
Diphtheria	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	8
Enteric Fever (inc. paratyphoid)	-	1	-	1	-	4	3	4	3	1	1	-	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	(2 ages not given)					-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	3	3	2	3	14
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	2	11
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	41	103	100	140	152	469	13	-	1	(1 age not given)			1,020



Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever	28	13	-
Diphtheria	8	7	-
Enteric Fever (incl. Paratyphoid)	18	18	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-
Pneumonia	14	-	-
Erysipelas	11	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Measles	1,020	-	-

### Typhoid Fever.

There were two cases of Typhoid during the year, one occurring in a person who had nursed a sick neighbour who was shown conclusively to be suffering from enteric or typhoid fever. The source of this very limited outbreak was regarded by me as having been the result of the first sufferer having been in contact with a reputed carrier of typhoid bacilli.

Of course, it is well-known that chronic carriers need not be excreting the bacilli constantly and that intermittency may occur.

### Paratyphoid B. Fever.

There were 15 cases notified and these were associated with the concurrent outbreak at Bedlington and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, a description of which is here appended.

### The Outbreak of Paratyphoid B. Fever, in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Ashington and Bedlingtonshire Urban Districts.

The serious outbreak of Paratyphoid B. Fever, which took place principally in Newbiggin by the Sea and to a much less extent in neighbouring urban districts, of Ashington and Bedlingtonshire was a remarkable and important one in several ways, and quite the outstanding event in public health in 1940.

The number of cases of paratyphoid notified in each district were as follows -

Newbiggin	66	
Ashington	15	
Bedlington	5	(2 unconnected with the Newbiggin outbreak).



It had been well known for some time that paratyphoid B. fever had been occurring in epidemic form in several places prior to this outbreak, namely Glasgow 1936 and 1940, Birmingham 1940, and almost simultaneous with the Newbiggin outbreak in 1940 an outbreak at Gateshead on Tyne and Whickham.

It should be pointed out that the memorandum on Typhoid Fever published by the Ministry of Health 225/Med had been distributed to all medical practitioners in the five districts in December 1939. This brochure embodied all the most up to date information relating to the enteric fevers (typhoid and the paratyphoids).

The salient features of the epidemic are described below and it is noteworthy that while the local source of the prevalence was found to be in Newbiggin by the Sea district, the incipient phase of the epidemic became apparent in the first place in a particular ward of Ashington, viz. the one nearest Newbiggin.

The first indication that your Medical Officer had - who was at that time single handed - that something unusual had happened in the district, was a telephone message from the Royal Victoria Infirmary to the effect that a young Ashington boy who had been admitted to that institution was actually suffering from Paratyphoid B. fever. This was on the 10th May, 1940, and he was transferred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle. A personal visit to this boy's home in Newbiggin Road, Ashington, did not elicit anything unusual about the provisioning of this household, except that the lad had a great partiality for icecream and had partaken of this refreshment from many establishments, both in and outside the districts. He had sickened on the 4th May, 1940.

On May 15th four cases (three in one family, consisting of a mother and two very young children) of para B. Fever were notified in Ashington and a single case in Newbiggin by the Sea (Hawthorn Road 1, Monkseaton Terrace 3, Ashington Moorcroft 1, Newbiggin). These last four cases occurred in the practice of one doctor, who had surgeries in both districts and all five were removed to the I.D. Hospital at Ashington.

As is my usual practice on the occurrence of enteric fever all the medical practitioners in the districts were at once informed of the existence of Para B. Fever, as well as the A.D.M.S. of the Military Division; the Resident Medical Officers of the Royal Victoria Infirmary and the Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle; the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer.

Thereafter cases of Para B. Fever continued to be notified throughout the next four months with the dates of the onset of the illness as follows, taking place in the months stated -

Month.	Total No. of cases.	Ashington	Bedlington	Newbiggin	Morpeth R.
May	47	10	3	33	1
June	16	2	-	13	1
July	3	-	-	3	-
August	17	1	-	15	1
Totals	83	13	3	64	3

The last case notified was on 24th September 1940 in Newbiggin by the Sea.

In addition to the 83 cases or thereby information was received of illnesses of Para B. Fever occurring as follows outwith any of the five districts for which your M.O.H. is Medical Officer of Health, namely three in non-civilians and two in other civilians.

Table of age groups of patients in Ashington, Bedlington, Newbiggin and Morpeth Rural.

	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	over 45
Males	5	7	3	7	1	5	3	3	-	1
Females	8	7	6	8	5	3	2	3	2	5
Totals	13	14	9	15	6	8	5	6	2	6
	( 66.2/3% )					( 33.1/3% )				

It is my opinion that many other cases of very mild para B. infection occurred, but were never brought to light for many of the sufferers would probably pass through an illness which was regarded as too trivial and slight to report to a doctor.

At a time when Influenza was non-existent in the district, it is worth recording that from 6th May to 16th May there were notified to the P.H. Department in Newbiggin by the Sea from one practice eight cases of illness attributed to Acute Influenzal Pneumonia. Three of these cases (Nos. 11, 12, 22) had been admitted to general hospitals in Newcastle, from which they were retrieved on the true nature of their illness having been discovered. No. 22, an important case, sickened on 3.5.40 and was said to be under medical care from 5.5.40 till 23.5.40 on which date the patient was removed to the Royal Victoria Infirmary and later transferred to Ashington Infectious Diseases Hospital on 28.5.40 as the disease had been diagnosed as Para B. Fever.

Case No. 31 is also an important case and was closely associated with case No. 22; was seen on 5.5.40 and transferred to another district. There, the real nature of the patient's illness was not recognised until after the receipt of notification that Case 22 was one of paratyphoid on the 28.5.40. Case 31 was



investigated and found to have been really affected with paratyphoid and was admitted to hospital on 31.4.40. The onset of this patient's illness was 1.5.40, exactly eleven days after coming to reside in Newbiggin by the Sea.

None of the other cases of the epidemic - all of which were personally investigated by the Medical Officers of Health - gave an earlier date of onset than Case No. 31.

All this goes to show that the enteric fevers are so protean in their manifestations that it is always well to carry out blood cultures, and serological tests at the earliest appropriate moment in all cases of ill-defined, vague and febrile illnesses, of over a week's duration.

The patients were with one exception treated in hospital. In the first place the Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Ashington U.D.C. was utilised, from which patients suffering from Scarlet Fever and diphtheria were displaced to the I.D. Hospital of the Bedlingtonshire U.D.C. which at once was opened out and staffed. The new nursing staff at Bedlington were inoculated against the typhoid fevers in anticipation of more accommodation being required for the expected increased incidence of cases, which, of course, these nurses would be called upon to care for. This did in fact take place, necessitating a further evacuation of scarlet fever and diphtheria patients to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Morpeth.

With the exception of five cases, which were removed to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle, all the cases of paratyphoid fever were treated successfully in the hospitals of the Ashington and Bedlingtonshire Urban District Councils, the physicians in charge being the Medical Officer of Health and the Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

There were no deaths and all the patients on discharge were free from infection, judged by three successive negative bacteriological results. No secondary cases occurred in any of the various grades of personnel in any of the hospitals - all members of the staff having been already protected by the appropriate inoculations on recruitment to the hospitals at all times.

I have no doubt in my own mind that the cause of this prevalence of Paratyphoid was the result of infected artificial or synthetic cream reaching a central bakery in Newbiggin by the Sea from which it became distributed to the firm's many consumers in Newbiggin and the adjoining districts in various types of cream confectionery, as cream cakes, trifles, sandwich cakes, etc.

These were sold at this large business concern's various branches by their roundsmen and from other small retailers depots.

What role in the continued propagation of the epidemic was played by temporary carriers and employees incubating the disease and who were engaged in separate, central and branch provision



departments of the same firm other than the bakery, I am not in a position to make a definite pronouncement, except that these would for a time at least handle cooked meats, such as cooked cold meat, hams, butter, etc., which items would not be subjected to further cooking in the home after purchase.

The outbreak is yet another to be added to the already long list of paratyphoid epidemics incriminating artificial cream, and which have become much commoner since the outbreak of War in 1939, though some large prevalences had taken place prior to 1939.

The ascertainment of the source of the trouble became the paramount concern of your Medical Officer of Health and the first four patients especially the Newbiggin one being too seriously ill to be able to give much reliable evidence, a preliminary cast was made on 15.5.40 amongst the mobile icecream vendors of local and national brands travelling the affected parts of the districts. These investigations, extended to the remainder of the itinerant sellers, and the staffs of the local icecream manufacturers on 16.5.40, proved to be negative. The icecream season had been by the 4.5.40 about four or five weeks in progress and its sale and the number of roundsmen were being steadily increased with the approach of better weather.

The water supplied to Ashington and Newbiggin by the Sea from Tynemouth Corporation as well as that supplied to North Seaton Colliery were immediately excluded from being in any way responsible, as the result of bacteriological analyses. So too with certain milk supplies.

On 17.5.40 the serological comb out of the personnel of the bakery had commenced and cream cakes from this particular bakery were conveyed on that date to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination. On the 18.5.40 specimens of the artificial cream used in filling the above cream cakes were also forwarded for a similar purpose. This cream was taken with proper precautions from an already opened canister of the suspected brand in the bakery. The remainder of the personnel of the central bakery were serologically tested on 19 and 20.5.40 and official information was received on 21.5.40 that a bakeress and a roundsman both showed suggestive reactions for B. paratyphosus B (1 in 125). Both were admitted to an Isolation Hospital on 21.5.40 for observation and were found to be intestinal carriers (albeit transient and convalescent for they ultimately cleared up and resumed employment).

Meanwhile official intimation of the bacteriological results of the cream in the cakes and the cream itself had arrived on 22.5.40: They were as follows:-

Cream cakes (17.5.40) - (a) no specific pathogenic organisms found.  
(b) Bacillus faecalis alkaligenes Present.

Cream (18.5.40) - (a) no specific pathogenic organisms found.  
(b) numerous Bacilli faecalis alkaligenes Present.

Standard works on Bacteriology state that *B. faecalis alkaligenes* and Morgans *Bacillus* are found in dysenteric and non dysenteric intestinal disturbances affecting humans.

The use of this particular brand of synthetic cream in this bakery was stopped immediately on 22.5.40.

While on the subject of the artificial cream, it was thought more equitable to ascertain the bacterial content (if any) of the cream from an unopened canister immediately on arrival at Newbiggin. Accordingly the first such available unopened container was secured and deposited with the bacteriologist on 23.5.40 and on the 30.5.40 he reported as follows:-

Number of organisms developing on agar at 37°C - Plates uncountable -  
several million per cc.  
*B.coli* present in 0.0001 cc.

A number of non lactose fermenting types have been found including *B. faecalis alkaligenes* (numerous) and *B.morgan* No.1, but specific organisms of the enteric group have not been isolated.

The Bacteriologist added a memorandum to his report that whatever the quantitative estimate of the bacterial content at the time of examination, the fact still remained that the various types of organisms found must have been present ab initio, though it was impossible to say whether they had gained access during the manufacturing process or were derived from the raw materials used.

*B. paratyphosus* B. was never recovered from any of the samples of artificial cream sent to the bacteriologist and of course it is well known that the isolation of enteric organisms even from sewage polluted and infested waters is a difficult task.

Another point should be made that actual samples of the cream presumed to be contaminated and consumed by the sufferers were never available for examination.

My previous local knowledge of the district as a former general practitioner therein enabled me to discern that nothing short of a wholesale serological comb out of all the employees of all the food distributing departments would suffice for the reason that this large concern employs a great many hands - at this time many of them novices - whose households would be customers of all departments, and hence a person employed in a provision department, while not handling any of the cream confectionery from the bakery might, would in fact, from time to time find cream cakes on the teatable purchased direct from a branch depot or from a roundsman of the bakery department of the same firm, Furthermore, many of the patients had relatives employed in this large business concern.

The investigations were, on 21.5.40, extended to the staff in the grocery department, with negative findings except that one assistant, (case 15) had been off since 6.5.40 and was found within the next day or two to have had paratyphoid B. fever (serum 23.5.40



positive B. para B. 1 in 2500 and B. para B. recovered in hospital).

On 21st May 1940 the Assistant Medical Officer of Health took up duty for the first time - a timely arrival. Thereafter the ascertainment of the state of health past or present of the employees went on apace.

A positive reactor was discovered in a branch provision establishment of the same firm and was Case No.23, was never off work though this employee passed through some sort of vague illness (serum 27.5.40 positive B. para B. 1/250: B. para B. recovered in hospital).

Case No.19, aged 8, a son of the resident manager in the above branch was removed on 25.5.40 to Hospital with Para B. Fever.

Case No 38, aged 2, a daughter of one of the firm's butchers was removed to hospital on 6.6.40 with Para B. Fever.

Despite the continuous intensive search for carriers and cases amongst other food handling firms - always with negative results - and the strict hospitalisation of all cases and ascertained excretors of B. para B. cases of paratyphoid fever continued to occur in a desultory and most disconcerting manner throughout June, and July until the end of August and beginning of September when a recrudescence of the epidemic took place although to a slighter degree.

However, on 23.7.40 Case 65, aged  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years, was found to give a serum reaction for B. para B. 1 in 5000 and B. para B. was recovered in Hospital. This was the child of the manager of the central bakery.

A renewed comb out of the employees of this firm was decided upon and immediately commenced including the bakery, and as a result two assistants in the provision departments of different branches were found to be absent from work.

Case 76; serum 23.8.40 positive B. para B. 1/1000, was admitted to hospital on 24.8.40, a clinical case and B. para B. recovered.

Case 83, serum 2.9.40 positive B. para B. 1/500, admitted to Hospital 3.9.40 and B. recovered.

At this time two of the errand boys on the milk rounds of the same firm were found to react for B. para B. 1 in 125, but could not be found in any other way to be responsible for the renewed activity of the epidemic.

At this time too, Case 84 was discovered by the recovery of the Bacillus paratyphosus B. This case was the only other sufferer employed in a totally different food distributing firm, other than the business concern from which all the previous sufferers and carriers had been retrieved.



The very great preponderance of clinical cases and carriers gave definite histories of having consumed cream confectionery in some form or other, obtained from the central bakery. It might so have happened that the households of the infected obtained their supplies as regular, daily or occasional deliveries or that some isolated cases from other districts had visited Newbiggin by the Sea for some special reason as e.g. a funeral or wedding, for which functions the central bakery happened to be responsible for the catering, supplying amongst other items cream filled cakes or confectionery.

With the hospitalisation of the last three food handling patients, Cases 76, 83 and 84, the epidemic speedily terminated with much relief to the very great strain imposed upon the Medical Officers of Health who investigated the history of each case personally and who were the physicians in attendance at the Infectious Diseases Hospitals and responsible for directing the treatment.

An interesting item having some bearing on the type of articles of food responsible, was disclosed in the case of a family of three, in which there existed one, who was debarred by a disability from partaking of starchy and sweetened food-stuffs. This person did not develop Paratyphoid B. Fever though the other two persons in the family (Cases 12 and 14) who were definite clinical cases, indulged in products of this central bakery, including cream confectionery. One of these patients was a dealer in raw marine produce.

Much valued assistance was given by the Matron and nursing staff of the hospitals, whose staffs throughout worked unsparingly in the interests of the patients at all times.

From the very beginning of the outbreak, in my communications with the representatives of the Central Authority in Newcastle, I was most emphatic in my view that the contamination of this conglomerate product took place at or on the premises of the manufacturer in the South and, assuming that the constituents of the synthesis and returned containers would, as an elementary precaution and as sound food handling practice, be properly sterilised, I suggested that an investigation should be carried out at the factory as to whether the present or past health of any of the employees could have any bearing in originating illnesses such as Paratyphoid B. Fever among the consumers of this artificial cream outside the confines of the factory.

As there were outbreaks of Paratyphoid B. Fever at different places at different times throughout 1940 traceable to bakeries and attributed to artificial cream derived from a particular factory and dispersed under different trade names through various agents, certain batches could only have been infected periodically depending what shift the presumed carrier was on and it just so happened that Newbiggin's luck was out when it became the recipient of containers from one of those infected batches of artificial cream.

To conclude then no great difficulty was experienced by your Medical Officer in gaining his primary objective, viz. the local source of the trouble in this case, the central bakery, but the further investigation of the factory situated in the rearward areas from which the peccant material was presumed to have emanated rested with Central Health Authority.

Water supplies are necessarily safeguarded by the observation of very stringent regulations affecting production and personnel (vide Bacteriological Examination of water supplies No. 71 revised) and one feels that some parallel ordinances should be evolved in regard to the production of such a universality as synthetic cream especially affecting its sterilisation and the health of the personnel either on recruitment to the factory or on return from sickness.

### Scarlet Fever.

The downward trend in decreased notifications of this disease continued, falling to a mere 28 cases with no deaths.

### Diphtheria.

Diphtheria slumped from 179 cases in 1939 to 8 in 1940, though associated with these 8 three other persons were disclosed to be harbouring the diphtheria organism in the throat. There were no deaths.

### Measles.

The susceptibles in Ashington fell an easy prey to the nation wide epidemic of measles. The age incidence is shown in the table and the malady on the whole proved to be of a mild type with few complications and the district was fortunate in that no deaths were recorded as due to measles.

Dysentery - One case of Flexner Dysentery made its appearance in the district.

## TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	3	1	3	1	-	-	-	-
15-	2	5	1	1	-	2	-	1
25-	-	4	-	-	-	7	-	-
35-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
45-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	7	14	4	4	1	10	1	1



There were 8 non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis as follows:-

	Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	1	-
1-	-	-	3	-
5-	-	-	-	1
15-	-	1	1	-
25-	-	-	-	-
35-	1	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	5	1

Non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis ..... 8

Notified deaths from Tuberculosis .....13

Total deaths from Tuberculosis .....21

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1940 became operative in September 1940, imposing an obligation on Medical Officers of Health to furnish to the local offices of the Ministry of Labour particulars of male persons of ages specified from time to time who are registered as having suffered or are suffering from Tuberculosis. The reasons for these are easily made out and enable the responsible authority to be made aware of disabilities past or present at the moment of registration of any male under the Military Service Acts.

#### CANCER MORTALITY

	<u>Males</u>							<u>Females</u>						
	20	30	40	45	55	65	Tot.	20	30	40	45	55	65	Tot.
Bladder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Stomach	-	-	1	-	4	1	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rectum	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Mamma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	4
Lungs	-	1	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaw	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skin	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Prostate	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thyroid	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brain	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mediastinum	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	1	3	8	11	25	-	-	-	3	3	6	12



Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1940. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County
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\*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-

Live Births	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7
Still "	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44
Deaths:-				
All causes	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01
Influenza	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-

Deaths under 1 Year of Age	55	61	54	50
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteric under 2 years of Age.	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8

\* A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths.

\*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-

Notifications:-				
Enteric	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.32	0.33	0.29	0.28
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82
Whooping Cough	1.34	1.29	1.35	0.22
Diphtheria	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.61
Erysipelas	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.35
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-
Measles	10.24	9.23	9.99	1.78
Pneumonia	1.20	1.37	1.00	0.87

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-

Maternal Mortality:-	(Excluding Abortion)			
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	0.52)			
Others	1.64)	Not available		
Total	2.16)			
Notifications:-				3.34*
Puerperal Fever }	11.96	13.90	9.73	13.30
" Pyrexia }		30.		including Puerperal Fever.



